

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Initially, applicants note the outstanding Office Action has prematurely been made a Final Rejection as the outstanding Office Action contains a new grounds for rejection that was not necessitated by any amendment on the part of the applicant. Specifically, the outstanding Office Action contains a rejection of claims 5-7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph with respect to claim language “wherein a width of said third signal line is set between the first signal line and the second signal line”. That claim language was recited in original claim 8, as an example. Thus, that rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is a new a grounds for rejection that was not necessitated by any amendment on the part of the applicant as that claim language was already previously recited. Setting forth such a new grounds rejection in a Final Rejection is improper as applicants have not had an opportunity to address that rejection. Thereby, the finality of the previous Office Action must be withdrawn and the present amendments must be entered.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-14, and 16-19 are pending in this application. Claims 5-7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-4, 12, 13, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,726,488 to Shirasaki in view of U.S. patent 5,251,108 to Doshita.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 5-7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

The above-noted claim are amended by the present response to clarify the language therein, and to recite that “a width of said third signal line is set to be between the width of said first signal line and said second signal line”. That claim amendment is believed to clarify the language and address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 5 is also amended without prejudice to delete an unneeded limitation.

Addressing now the rejection claims 1-4, 12, 13, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirasaki in view of Doshita, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Applicants respectfully submit the combination of teachings in Shirasaki and Doshita would not have been suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art in a manner to meet the claim limitations.

First, applicants note the outstanding rejection recognizes that Shirasaki does not disclose the claimed “plurality of conductors provided to connect said edge portion of said first high frequency transmission line to said edge portion of said second high frequency transmission line”. According to the above-noted claim feature, and with reference to Figure 2 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, plural conductors 12 are provided to connect the first high frequency transmission line 3 at its edge portion to the edge portion of the second high frequency transmission line 4. Further, in the noted claims, that first edge portion of the first high frequency transmission line 3 is thinner at the portion where the plural conductors 12 are provided for connection. The use of such plural conductors as noted above is not taught by Shirasaki.

To overcome the recognized deficiencies in Shirasaki the outstanding rejection cites Doshita. However, applicants respectfully submit such a combination would not have been suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art.

First, in the claims all of the plural conductors are provided at the thinner edge portion of the first high frequency transmission line. Shirasaki could not have been suggested to be modified to meet that limitation, particularly in view of the teachings in Doshita. More particularly, Shirasaki merely discloses a thinner edge portion that can only incorporate a single conductor 5. Shirasaki does not disclose or suggest any thinner edge portion that would be able to be thin enough to include multiple conductors. Moreover, Doshita discloses

a structure directly contrary to that in Shirasaki in that manner. Specifically, Doshita discloses providing connectors at *widened* portions of a conductor line. Doshita discloses that “[c]onnecting areas of the through holes 20a-22b and the conductors 11-14 are *increased* compared with the conventional laminated electronic device. Therefore, even if the base sheets 1-4 are not laminated correctly, the chip inductor 24 can work normally as long as one of the two through holes on each sheet is connected electrically with a conductor”.<sup>1</sup>

In such ways, Doshita discloses *increasing* the size of a conductor at its connection point, which is directly contrary to the claimed features and directly contrary to Shirasaki. In such ways, there could not have been any suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Doshita in view of Shirasaki with respect to the multiple conductors as the teachings in Doshita are directly opposite to those in Shirasaki.

Moreover, the laminated electronic device disclosed in Doshita does not appear to be a similar type of device as the high-frequency wiring board in Shirasaki, and thus the teachings in Doshita are further not properly combinable to the teachings in Shirasaki.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the teachings of Shirasaki in view of Doshita in the manner suggested.

Thereby, claims 1-4, 12, 13, 18, and 19 are believed to distinguish over the combination of teachings of Shirasaki in view of Doshita.

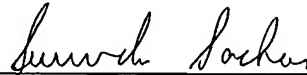
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<sup>1</sup> Doshita at col. 2, lines 59-66 (emphasis added).

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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